Will Government consider participating in more such international con-'erence« and the details, thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the par kipation in COTAL and the subsequent visit of the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism to some of the Latin American countries hag created a good deal of interest in India and if so, what is the number of tourists expected from Latin America this year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TIONAND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) India has participa ted fdr the first time in the Congress and EXPO of the confederation of lour operators |tra-ve1 agents]hoteliers *at* Latin American Countries held in Madrid, Spain from 29-5-94 to 3-6-94. Department of Tourism put up an impressive stand at the Pavillion where peblicity literature etc. translated in Spanish language was distributed. An India Evening was also orgainsed which was attended by the Tourism and Travel Industry representatives of various countries.

113 Boohs were set up at the Pavi- | lion by participants from not only Latin American Countries and Spain but also from major tourist generating countries like USA. Canada, TJK, France, China. Japan. Russia. Taiwan ,

(b) India won (he Best Promotion Awarti For its overall presentation. | (TOTAL has announced the opening of i chapter in India. The Department is participating in several important international events such as. ITB-Berlin. WTM-London. EIBTM -Geneva. B1T-Mflan, FTTUR-Madrid, TUR-Sweden, ASTA-America, JATA-Japan, AFTA-AMtrialia, etc.

(c) Yes Sir, a great deal of interest has been shown and it is expected that the number of tourists visiting India would increase in the coming year.

Emergency exist flown off in *mkt* -

383. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the emergency exist of a plane being opera ted by a private air taxi operator, Archana Airways, had flown off in mid air recently causing a great deal of panic among the passengers, and if not what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the July, 1994 issue of the Top Tourism Bulletin that the preliminary reports bad discounted the taxi opera tor's version that the accident had taken, place because of the tinkering by a curious passenger, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE-M1NISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Archana Airways L-410 aircraft, wet leased from 1 ET Aeronautical Works, Czech Republic, was operating a flight from Delhi to Simla on 17-6-94. The aircraft was under the command of Czech crew. After take off, when the aircraft was about 15 nautical miles from Delhi, its right side emergency door had flown off. The aircraft thereafter made s safe landing at Delhi airport.

(b) Investigation into the incident has revealed that inadvertent turning of the handle to the "Open"' positon by the passenger/child had caused the emergency door to fly off during the flight.

Improvement of Totsrisi futilities at Andaman and Nicobar Islands

384. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps has been taken to improve the tourist facilities at Andaman and Nicobar, Island which has great tourist potential; and

(b) the reasons for which the weekly air service to Car Nicobar has been'

discontinue which has a great tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governmentsj'UTs based on spsciHc proposals, their merits, intcr-se priorities and subject to availability of furtus. The fol owing projects have been sanctianed during 1993-94 tor the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands :—

(I) Tourist Complex at Dighpur : Rs. 26.62 lakhs

(2) Tourist Complex at Rangat : Rs. 26.85 lakh$_s$

(b) Due to Pilot srike effective December 1992, the once weekly Boeing 737 service operating on Calcut«a-Pbitt Blair-Nicobar and return routes was withdrawn.

Improvement of tourist facilities in Goa

385. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Wiil the Minister of CIVIL AVIATTON Ar-JD TOURISM be pleased ,to state:

(a) what are the details of s'eps taken improve the tourist facilities in Goa:

(b) whether it is a fact [f]hat ship service from Bombay and othtr places to Goa has been stopped for the lasi two years adversely effecting the tourism in Goa: and

(c) if so, the reason therefor as ship service gives a big boost to tourism industry of Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the respon sibility of the State Government. How ever, Central Government provide" financial, assistance to State Govern ments based on specific proposals, theif merits, inter-se priorities and subject to availability of funds. A list of projects sanctioned during 1993-94 i$_s$ given i the enclosed Statement. *Soe* below).

(b) and *(c)* Efforts to start senses through State Governments no; having succeered, sanction has been given t» private operators for introducing passenger service by ship between Bombay and Goa. This will help in boost! ns tourism.

Statement

Projects!Schemes prioritised during 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Status/likely date of comp tetion
1	2	3	4	
	GOA			
	UNDER NORMAL FUNDING			
1	Wayside facilities at Dodamarg-	12.80	6.40	March '95
2	Tourist complex at Kavaem	18.00	9.00	-do-
3	*Public conveniences at Panaji and Calanguto Beaoh	8.78	2.50	Dec. '94